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The SPECTATOR.

------ *Magni nominis Umbra.* Lucan.

MONDAY, *July* 5. 1714.

I Shall entertain my Reader with two very curious Letters. The firſt of them comes from a chimerical Perſon, who I believe never writ to any Body before.

SIR,

'I Am deſcended from the ancient Family of the *Blanks*, a Name well known among all Men 'of Buſineſs. It is always read in thoſe little 'white Spaces of Writing which want to be filled 'up, and which for that Reaſon are called *blank* 'Spaces, as of Right appertaining to our Family: 'For I conſider my ſelf as the Lord of a Mannor, 'who lays his Claim to all Waſtes or Spots of 'Ground that are unappropriated. I am a near 'Kinſman to *John a Styles* and *John a Nokes*; and 'they, I am told, came in with the Conquerour. 'I am mentioned oftner in both Houſes of Parliament than any other Perſon in *Great Britain*. My 'Name is written, or more properly ſpeaking, 'not written, thus,

'I am one that can turn my Hand to every 'thing, and appear under any Shape whatſoever. 'I can make my ſelf Man, Woman, or Child. 'I am ſometimes metamorphoſed into a Year of 'our Lord, a Day of the Month, or an Hour of 'the Day. I very often repreſent a Sum of Money, and am generally the firſt Subſidy that is 'granted to the Crown. I have now and then 'ſupplied the Place of ſeveral Thouſands of 'Land Soldiers, and have as frequently been employed in the Sea Service.

'Now, Sir, my Complaint is this, that I am 'only made uſe of to ſerve a Turn, being always 'diſcarded as ſoon as a proper Perſon is found out 'to fill up my Place.

'If you have ever been in the Play-houſe before the Curtain riſes, you ſee moſt of the front 'Boxes filled with Men of my Family, who forthwith turn out, and reſign their Stations upon the 'Appearance of thoſe for whom they are retained.

'But the moſt illuſtrious Branch of the *Blanks* are 'thoſe who are planted in high Poſts, till ſuch 'time as Perſons of greater Conſequence can be 'found out to ſupply them. One of theſe *Blanks* 'is equally qualified for all Offices: He can ſerve 'in time of Need for a Soldier, a Politician, a 'Lawyer, or what you pleaſe. I have known in 'my Time many a Brother *Blank* that has been 'born under a lucky Planet, heap up great Riches, 'and ſwell into a Man of Figure and Importance, 'before the Grandees of his Party could agree 'among themſelves which of them ſhould ſtep 'into his Place: Nay, I have known a *Blank* continue ſo long in one of theſe vacant Poſts, (for 'ſuch it is to be reckoned all the Time a *Blank* 'is in it) that he has grown too formidable and 'dangerous to be removed.

'But to return to my ſelf, ſince I am ſo very 'commodious a Perſon, and ſo very neceſſary in 'all well regulated Governments, I deſire you will 'take my Caſe into Conſideration, that I may be 'no longer made a Tool of, and only employed 'to ſtop a Gap. Such Uſage, without a Pun, 'makes me look very blank. For all which Rea-

'ſons

'ſons I humbly recommend my ſelf to your Protection, and am

Your moſt obedient Servant,

Blank.

P. S. 'I herewith ſend you a Paper, drawn up 'by a Country Attorney employed by two Gentlemen, whoſe Names he was not acquainted 'with, and who did not think fit to let him into 'the Secret which they were tranſacting. I heard 'him call it a Blank Inſtrument, and read it after 'the following manner. You may ſee by this 'ſingle Inſtance of what Uſe I am to the buſy 'World.

'*I* T. Blank, *Eſq*; *of* Blank *Town, in the County* 'of Blank, *do own my ſelf indebted in the Sum of* 'Blank *to Goodman* Blank, *for the Service he did* 'me *in procuring for me the Goods following,* Blank: '*And I do hereby promiſe the ſaid* Blank *to pay* 'unto *him the ſaid Sum of* Blank, *on the* Blank *Day* 'of *the Month of* Blank *next enſuing, under the Pe-* 'nalty *and Forfeiture of* Blank.

I ſhall take Time to conſider the Caſe of this my imaginary Correſpondent, and in the mean while ſhall preſent my Reader with a Letter which ſeems to come from a Perſon that is made up of Fleſh and Blood.

Good Mr. SPECTATOR,

'I Am married to a very honeſt Gentleman 'that is exceedingly good-natured, and at 'the ſame time very cholerick. There is no ſtanding before him when he is in a Paſſion; but as 'ſoon as it is over he is the beſt humour'd Creature in the World. When he is angry he breaks 'all my China-Ware that chances to lie in his 'Way, and the next Morning ſends me in twice 'as much as he broke the Day before. I may 'poſitively ſay, that he has broke me a Child's 'Fortune ſince we were firſt marry'd together.

'As ſoon as he begins to fret, down goes every 'thing that is within Reach of his Cane. I once 'prevailed upon him never to carry a Stick in his 'Hand, but this ſaved me nothing; for upon 'ſeeing me do ſomething that did not pleaſe 'him, he kick'd down a great Jarr, that coſt him 'above Ten Pound but the Week before. I then 'laid the Fragments together in a Heap, and 'gave him his Cane again, deſiring him that 'if he chanced to be in Anger, he would ſpend 'his Paſſion upon the China that was broke to 'his Hand. But the very next Day, upon my giving a wrong Meſſage to one of the Servants, 'he flew into ſuch a Rage, that he ſwept down a 'Dozen Tea-Diſhes which, to my Misfortune, 'ſtood very convenient for a Side-Blow.

'I then removed all my China into a Room 'which he never frequents; but I got nothing by 'this neither, for my Looking-Glaſſes immediately went to Rack.

'In ſhort, Sir, whenever he is in a Paſſion he 'is angry at every thing that is brittle; and if 'on ſuch Occaſions he had nothing to vent his 'Rage upon, I do not know whether my Bones 'would be in Safety. Let me beg of you, Sir, to 'let me know whether there be any Cure for this 'unaccountable Diſtemper; or if not, that you 'will be pleaſed to publiſh this Letter: For my 'Husband having a great Veneration for your 'Writings, will by that means know you do not 'approve of his Conduct.

I am,

Your moſt humble Servant, &c.

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For the Good of the Publick.

Whereas ſeveral Gentlewomen, and others of that Sex in this Kingdom, have contracted an evil Habit of Body, wherein the vicious Humours at firſt diſperſed through the whole, come at length to be lodged in one Part or another, and many times, for Cauſes too long here to be mentioned, are thrown down upon the Womb, occaſioning a dangerous Weakneſs in that Part, which being neglected, at laſt turns cancerous, and often proves fatal. I cure the Diabetes when given over by all other Perſons. This is to acquaint all ſuch as may have Occaſion, that a ſpeedy Relief is to be had from an experienced Widwife, dwelling now at the Sign of the Queen's-Arms, a Goldſmith's, near Exeter Exchange in the Strand, who perform'd a Cure upon a Lady at the Bath, after ſhe was given over by Phyſicians, and ſince has cured ſeveral Gentlewomen and others in the City and Suburbs of London.

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